MOUNTAIN LION

1997 HUNTING REGULATIONS STATE OF MONTANA

Licenses

- A hunter may purchase only one mountain lion license per year.
- Mountain lion licenses are available only at Fish, Wildlife & Parks Headquarters.
- Applications must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than August 31.
- A hunter may legally take one adult mountain lion per season.

General Regulations

- When the total quota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion season for that area will close upon 24-hours notice, but no later than February 15.
- When the subquota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion subquota for that area will close upon 24 hours notice, but no later than February 15.
- Females with kittens may not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, she shall be backtracked and the kittens captured and turned over to Fish, Wildlife & Parks within 24 hours (Kittens are young of the year). No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed.
- The mountain lion license and tag must be attached to the animal immediately upon kill.
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.
- Evidence of sex must be verified by department personnel before a trophy license is issued. It will also be mandatory that skulls be turned in and tagged at the time a trophy license is issued.
- A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must, if required by FWP, physically return to the kill site for inspection.
- All Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges are closed to lion hunting.
- Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Headquarters in the administrative region where the district is located during normal business hours or statewide information at 1-800-385-7826 **24 hours every day.** The toll free line is updated by 1 PM (MST) every day.

Use of dogs:

- Dogs may be used to chase or hunt mountain lions within prescribed seasons. Lion hunting and chase seasons districts are open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the dates listed by hunting district.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or lion hunter to release dogs on a lion track, or allow dogs to chase a lion, or hold a lion at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing lions. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Persons handling dogs in the field are required to hold a mountain lion license and hound handler permit to hunt OR chase mountain lion during the hunting season.
- Hound handlers must possess a free hound handler permit to use dogs for chasing mountain lions during the chase season. Hound handler permits must be obtained no later than August 31.
- A hunter that has purchased a valid mountain lion license may legally chase mountain lion during the hunting season any time after a kill is made or when the quota is reached in a district or until February 15.

HUNTING SEASON

100 SERIES DISTRICTS

General Mountain Lion Season: Only in the 100 series districts, mountain lion may be taken during the general big game rifle season (Oct. 26 - Nov. 30). The season will close on Nov. 30 or upon reaching 20% of the quota established for the Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 season quota (as shown below). **Use Of Dogs Is Prohibited During The Big Game Rifle Season. Reporting Requirements Are The Same.** During this season female lions with kittens should not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, she will not be backtracked. No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed. The general season harvest will be deducted from Dec. 1-Feb. 15 quota.

Districts (or groups)	Hunting Season	FINAL Lion Harvest Quotas		
		Total	Female	Male
100	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	24	any legal lion	
101	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	18	any legal lion	
102	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	10	any legal lion	
103	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	15	any legal lion	
104	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	12	any legal lion	
110	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	13	any legal lion	
120	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	any legal lion	
121	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	29	any legal lion	
122	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	23	any legal lion	
123	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	any legal lion	
124	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	any legal lion	
130	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	13	any legal lion	
132, 170	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	12	any legal lion	
140	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	any legal lion	
141	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	any legal lion	
150,151	Sept. 15 - Feb. 15, 1998	5	any legal lion	

200 SERIES DISTRICTS

*Except Missoula Special Management Area.				
200, 201*	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	25	12	13
202, 203*	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	30	15	15
204*, 260 *& 261	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	30	20	10
Missoula Special Management Area Portions of 201, 203, 204, 260, 283 & 292	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	25	15	10
(Legal description and map of this area available from Missoula FWP Headquarters, 406-542-5500).				
210, 211, & 216	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	12	6	6
212, 215	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	4	4
213 & 214	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	2	2
240	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	40	25	15
250	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	30	20	10
270	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	25	15	10
280	Sept. 15 - Feb. 15, 1998	20	8	12
281, 284 & 293	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998			
282	CLOSED			
283*, 285	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	25	10	15
290, 291, & 292*	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	25	12	13

300 SERIES DISTRICTS

300, 302, 328, & 329	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3	2	
301	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	2	

Districts (or groups)	Hunting Season	FINAL Lion Harvest Quotas		
		Total	Female	Male
310, 311, 360, 361 & 362	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	2	
312, & 393	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	7	3	
313 & 316	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3	1	
Deckard Flats - Eagle Creek portion of hunting district 313 as posted, subject to closure to all hunting on 24 hours notice.				
314	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	2	
315	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3	2	
317	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	2	
318 & 350	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	3	3
319, 340 & 341	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3	2	
320 & 333	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	5	3	
322, 326 & 330	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	3	
323, 324, 325 & 327	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	3	
321, 331 & 332	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	3	
335, 339, & 343	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	10	6	4
370 & 380	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	4	4
390, 391, & 392	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	16	6	10
400 SERIES DISTRICTS				
400, 401, 403, 406, 415, & 441	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	3	2
404, 421, 444, & 450	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	4	4
405, 447, & 471	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	2	2
410, 411, 412, 417 419 & 426	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	15	6	9
413	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	10	6	4
416 & 446	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	18	9	9
418, 420, 432, 448 449, 452, & 454	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	14	7	7
422, 423, 424, 425 & 442	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	22	14	8
445, 455	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	12	8	4
500 SERIES DISTRICTS				
500 & 570	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3		
502 & 575	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4		
510	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	2	
511	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	4	2	
520	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	4	
530 & 590	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3		
540	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	8	4	
560	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	12	6	
580	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	6	3	
600 SERIES DISTRICTS				
Portion of 680 west of Cow Creek and 690	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	10	5	
Portion of 680 east of of Cow Creek, 600, 610 620, 621, 622, 623, 630, 631, 632, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652, 670	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	3		3
700 SERIES DISTRICTS				
	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15, 1998	7	any legal lion	

Mountain Lion - Trophy

A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must:

- Personally report their lion kill within 24 hours to an officer of Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the administrative region where the kill was made. And, must personally present the hide and skull within 5 days to an officer of the department residing in the administrative region in which the license was filled, for the purpose of inspection, tagging, recording of kill, and issuance of a trophy license.
- The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.
- The skull tag must remain attached to the skull for at least one year.
- The lion skull will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner.
- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any mountain lion, or part thereof, unless they have been tagged as prescribed.

Chase Only Season

- All hunting districts are open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset to the CHASE ONLY season from February 16 - April 30, 1998.
- Hound handlers must possess a free hound handler permit to use dogs for chasing of mountain lions during the chase season. Hound handler permits must be obtained no later than August 31.
- All Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Hunting District 282 are closed to the lion chase season.

Export Mountain Lions

A CITES permit is required in order to export mountain lion hides or parts out of the United States. Information on these permits and how to acquire them may be obtained from: Office of Management Authority, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22203 (1-800-358-2104) or local USFWS office or agent.

These mountain lion regulations must be used with the Deer, Elk & Lion maps in the 1997 Big Game Regulations and the Legal Descriptions for those districts as printed in the 1996-1997 Montana Legal Descriptions.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in section 87-1-301, MCA, and are valid March 1, 1997 through February 28, 1998. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on October 4, 1996. Quotas were adopted final on May 30, 1997. Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks